

XLIII.—*Further Notes on Birds observed on the Yenisei River, Siberia\**. By H. LEYBORNE POPHAM, M.A.

DURING my second journey to the Yenisei River in the summer of 1895 I either failed to find the nests, or was too late for the eggs, of several interesting birds, among them being *Tringa subarquata*, *Calidris arenaria*, &c. I therefore determined to take the first opportunity of renewing my acquaintance with the birds of the Yenisei district, and this opportunity occurred last year (1897). A sea-steamer, the 'Dolphin,' had been sent up the river to Yeniseisk in 1896, and being of more draught than was convenient, she was under orders to return down the stream as early as possible in the following spring, before the river fell to its summer level. My brother kindly placed this vessel at my disposal until the expedition sent out by him from England through the Kara Sea should arrive at the mouth of the river; and as I should thereby be enabled to proceed farther down the estuary than is possible in the Siberian trading-steamers, I thought such an exceptional chance of visiting a district hitherto unexplored in the nesting-season must not be missed. Accordingly I left London on April 12th, accompanied by my younger brother, and McGarry as bird-skinner. In 1895 I had been assisted by Mr. C. Boyce Hill, but this year I was obliged to do all my work alone, for I was unfortunate enough to lose the assistance of my brother at St. Petersburg, owing to illness which compelled him to return home. With his help my collection might have been almost doubled.

We left Moscow on April 29th, arriving by rail at Krasnoyarsk on May 8th, and by road at Yeniseisk three days later. Here we saw that some of the early migrants had already made their appearance, and that the ice on the river had broken up a few days previously. I at once set to work collecting specimens, and found that Fieldfares, Magpies, and Crows were already nesting. By May 18th the river at Yeniseisk was free from the drift-ice which comes down from the Angara River about ten days after the Yenisei has broken

\* For former paper see 'Ibis,' 1897, pp. 89-108.

up, and Swans, Geese and Ducks were constantly flying northward; but for several days the weather continued too cold for the arrival of small birds, while those which had arrived remained silent, and were consequently difficult to find. With warmer weather matters soon improved and fresh species appeared daily, so that before leaving Yeniseisk I had collected skins of 61 different species.

Four weeks later we started down the river in the s.s. 'Dolphin,' hurrying on through the forest-region in order to reach the tundra at the river's mouth before it became too late for eggs. Whenever we stopped for wood or were delayed by gales, I went ashore to collect specimens and devoted a considerable portion of my time to the Thrushes, of which I succeeded in finding eggs of seven species; but otherwise I sacrificed almost everything to the chance of greater prizes on the tundra.

Before reaching Golchika we came up with the ice, but after a short delay we were able to continue our voyage to that place and arrived on June 29th. We remained there for three days, to give the ice time to clear away below us, and then proceeded north, with the intention of getting to Kuzkin (Sibiriakoff) Island if possible. This we were never able to accomplish, for we were soon compelled to put back, owing to ice, and to anchor close to one of the islands. It was while lying at anchor here that I was fortunate in finding a nest of *Tringa subarquata*.

On the following day, during a fog, a strong wind brought the ice down on us again and caused us to beat a retreat up stream. In order to make use of our enforced delay, we then made an attempt to reach the western shore by following along the edge of the ice, but found the coast on this side of the river still more completely blocked. After riding out a two days' gale at anchor in the middle of the river, we started again for Kuzkin Island, hoping that the gale might have dispersed the ice; but our enemy still barred the way on this, as well as on a third endeavour to reach this island, two days later. We, however, employed our time in a vigorous search, both on the mainland on the east shore and

on the islands, for another Curlew-Sandpiper's nest; and, though we were unsuccessful, we were somewhat consoled by the number of Little Stints nesting there. The mosquitoes not only made it almost impossible to go ashore, but made our lives miserable on board as well.

On July 11th, having given up all hope of the ice allowing us to even see Kuzkin Island until all eggs were hatched, we returned to Golehika, calling at one of the Korsákovski group of islands on our way to erect a beacon as a guide to navigation. This island differs from the other islands in the delta of the Yenisei (with the exception of a small one close by and joined to it by a submerged reef of rocks) in being comparatively high and composed of rock instead of the usual tundra. It has been selected by the natives as a fitting place for the erection of a "temple" to their fish-god. The "temple" consists of a pile of stones supporting some branches of trees ornamented with reindeer skulls and surrounded with old sledges.

The ice which frustrated our object was, of course, only one season's river-ice, and no doubt rapidly melting under the warm sun; but as the current is very weak so far down the river, and also at times runs up from the sea, it would take some considerable time to drift away, although higher up the river, where the stream is strong, it will come down at the rate of 100 versts a day.

McGarry remained on the 'Dolphin' amongst the Brekhovski Islands to assist in taking soundings, laying down buoys, and erecting beacons for the navigation of the channels, and to bring home my collection by sea; while I took a passage up stream in the s.s. 'Yenisei,' one of the trading-steamers belonging to Kitmanoff & Co., and arrived at Yeniseisk after a voyage of three weeks on August 14th. During my return journey birds were in full moult, and were also screened from observation by the thick foliage and tall grass, so that I was able to add only seven new species to my list.

In several respects, especially in failing to secure any more eggs of the Red-breasted Goose, Bar-tailed Godwit, or

Pomatorhine Skua, my experiences in 1897 differed from those in 1895. This may partly be accounted for by my endeavours to fill up, as far as possible, the gaps in my former list and to search for eggs that I did not bring home in 1895.

I have to thank Mr. H. E. Dresser for his kindness in looking over the skins that I brought back, of which I now give a list, with the addition of a few that I was able to identify without obtaining a specimen. Where I have nothing to add to my remarks already published in 'The Ibis,' 1897, p. 91, I have merely given the name of the bird.

To make this list as perfect as possible I have also included some birds observed by Dr. Theel, of the Swedish expedition in 1876 (mostly at Krasnoyarsk, where I had no opportunity of collecting), and by Seebohm during the following year, although I have not personally met with them in the valley of the Yenisei. In these cases I have merely given the name of the species, with the name of the observer and the locality in brackets, and included the queries when these occur in their original lists.

Many of the birds which I observed at Yeniseisk were not seen farther down the river, but it does not necessarily follow that these do not occur farther north; for my time ashore at various places was often so short that it was quite impossible to secure or see more than a very small proportion of the species frequenting the locality. The latitudes given are approximate. An asterisk has been placed before the names of those birds which have been proved to nest in the valley of the Yenisei at, and north of, Yeniseisk.

1. \*TURDUS MUSICUS.

The Song-Thrush nests at Yeniseisk and up to lat. 63° N., but is not very common as compared with other members of this family.

2. \*TURDUS ILIACUS.

Redwings are not so gregarious as Fieldfares; they were nesting in Yeniseisk and elsewhere, indifferently in the pine-

forest or willows. A nest contained nearly-fledged young on June 8th.

3. \*TURDUS PILARIS.

Fieldfares, which were already nesting on my arrival at Yeniseisk, prefer the willows, especially those on the islands, for their nesting-grounds, though I have found small colonies in the pine-forest. The warbling song is always sung on the wing. The floods had evidently been exceptionally high in the spring and submerged all the early nests, for we found some which had been built and eggs laid in them before the water rose, as the eggs were covered with mud.

4. \*TURDUS FUSCATUS.

The Dusky Thrush was not seen at Yeniseisk, but was most numerous at Doodinka (lat.  $69\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N.), where the forest comes to an end; and here we found five nests, one of them with seven eggs. The birds are very demonstrative when their nest is approached, but when once it is found they are very shy, and it becomes difficult to get anything but a long shot at them. The nests were generally placed in small isolated trees, and rarely on the ground, though none were more than 2 feet from it. Three clutches of my eggs have markings of the Fieldfare's type; three others much resemble the ordinary type of the Blackbird's, but one is rather browner in markings than the other two; in one of these latter a single egg is of the Fieldfare's type, but darker in ground-colour.

5. \*TURDUS OBSCURUS.

Three nests of the Pale Thrush were found, resembling the Fieldfare's in construction, at Inbatskaya (lat.  $64^{\circ}$  N.): one about 4 feet from the ground on a stump, and another built close to the stem of a fir-tree on a branch about 20 feet high. This Thrush has a fine clear voice; he begins his song with a few rich notes, which are not much varied, and goes off into the same style of ending as of a Blackbird's song. The bird did not appear at Yeniseisk. The eggs are smaller than any of the other Thrushes' eggs found by us, and average 1.06 in. long by .75 in. broad.

## 6. \*TURDUS ATRIGULARIS.

Like the preceding species, the Black-throated Thrush appears to frequent the pine-forest only; and neither of them seems to be very gregarious in breeding-habits, for although several pairs were nesting in the same locality, they were not by any means in colonies, like the Fieldfares. I obtained my first specimen at Yeniseisk, but did not meet with this Thrush again till we came to Inbatskaya, where I took five nests, each containing six eggs, which vary considerably. Two clutches have the markings of the Mistle-Thrush, but the ground-colour is a deeper blue; other clutches are very much of the type of the Blackbird, and in one of these latter a single egg has the markings of the Mistle-Thrush type.

The nests, composed of dry grass with a lining of mud and an inner lining of broad dry grass, were all placed in small fir-trees close to the stem (except one, which was on the top of a stump) at heights varying between 3 feet and 6 feet. In all cases both the parent birds flew uneasily from tree to tree round the nest, constantly uttering their alarm-note, "chit, chit, chéet." When singing, the male whistles a few notes at a time, somewhat like a Song-Thrush, with considerable variation, but does not repeat the same phrase two or three times over as the latter does. The Black-throated Thrush appears to be extremely local in the valley of the Yenisei. The eggs measure from 1·08 in. to 1·15 in. long by from ·77 in. to ·84 in. broad.

## 7. \*TURDUS SIBIRICUS.

In 1895 I was unable to thoroughly identify eggs of the Siberian Thrush, but in 1897 I was determined, if possible, to do so, and spent many hours watching supposed nests before I succeeded in shooting a bird from its nest and watching others sitting on their nests. I eventually took 18 eggs out of six nests (the greatest number in one nest being four) and shot two specimens of the female bird and four males. The neighbourhood of Toorukhansk appears to be their headquarters. The eggs, which place the identity of

my supposed eggs of 1895 beyond doubt, can readily be distinguished from those of other Thrushes nesting in the same locality by their pale greyish-blue ground-colour and distinct spots. Four of my clutches somewhat resemble eggs of the Mistle-Thrush, one of which has the blue rather darker than the remainder; in another the eggs are very small and very pale bluish white in ground-colour; one clutch has the ground-colour very pale blue-green and is covered all over the surface of the shell with minute reddish spots.

I have never observed this Thrush in the pine-forest, but always in the willows fringing the shore and islands, on the topmost boughs of which the male sits and whistles a few rich notes, without any variation, but darts down out of sight at the slightest alarm. It is rather later in nesting than the other Thrushes, and was not seen at Yeniseisk. The nest is of the usual type: a rather untidy structure of dry grass, built in the fork of a willow a few feet from the ground, not so bulky as a Fieldfare's, with a scanty wall of mud and an inner lining of coarse dry grass. The eggs measure from 1.02 in. long by .78 in. broad to 1.18 in. long by .87 in. broad.

TURDUS NAUMANNI.

(Dr. Theel, at Yeniseisk and Doodinka.)

8. \*SAXICOLA ŒNANTHE.

A few Wheatears were observed at Yeniseisk, and they became common again below the forest, eggs being taken at Golchika from under a log of drift-wood.

9. PRATINCOLA MAURA. Eastern Stonechat.

10. \*RUTICILLA PHŒNICURUS.

Redstarts were nesting at Yeniseisk, but were not seen elsewhere.

11. \*CYANECULA SUECICA.

Bluethroats were common all down the river to lat. 69° 40' N.

12. CALLIOPE CAMCHATKENSIS.

The Ruby-throated Warbler was not noticed till June 2nd.

It then became fairly common at and near Yeniseisk, but no nest was found.

13. NEMURA CYANURA.

I chased a Blue-rumped Warbler in the forest (about 64° N.) and got a shot at it, but did not obtain it. This was the only one seen.

14. \*SYLVIA AFFINIS.

Siberian Lesser Whitethroats appeared at Yeniseisk on May 25th, and a considerable migration took place on the following day, the willows along the river-bank being full of them. Two days later they had commenced building—three eggs having been found on June 2nd, and four more on the 7th.

15. SYLVIA HORTENSIS.

I believe that I have extended the range of the Garden-Warbler considerably to the eastward by finding it at Yeniseisk, where at the beginning of June I shot four males.

16. \*PHYLLOSCOPUS SUPERCILIOSUS.

The Yellow-browed Warbler was accidentally omitted from my list of 1895. It is quite the commonest of the small forest-birds. It arrived at Yeniseisk on June 1st, and subsequently (till the limit of trees was reached) was daily heard and seen working its way up the willows and firs in search of food. It is a lively and tame little bird, but the "song" becomes rather wearisome. By watching the birds three nests were discovered, one of which contained seven eggs, another five. The domed nests were well concealed in the moss on the ground and composed of dry grass, with a lining of reindeer hair.

PHYLLOSCOPUS VIRIDANUS.

(Dr. Theel, in lat. 64° and 68° N.)

17. PHYLLOSCOPUS sp. inc.

On June 11th, while walking across some open meadows towards the bank of the river in about lat. 60° N., I shot a Warbler singing in a small bush, which has been described by Mr. H. E. Dresser thus:—"It resembles *Phylloscopus*

*collybita*, but has no yellow either on the rump or the edge and underpart of the wing, which has no trace of bars, and the formula is the same as in *Ph. collybita*. Culmen 0·5 in., wing 2·42, tail 2·0, tarsus 0·75." The song was not a Chiffchaff's, but more like a Willow-Warbler's, and the bird had pale greyish legs.

18. \*PHYLLOSCOPUS TRISTIS.

Siberian Chiffchaffs were among the earliest of the small birds to arrive at Yeniseisk, and my first specimen was shot on May 15th. They were common all the way down the river nearly up to lat. 70° N., frequenting the low bushes growing on the islands and banks of the river after the forest had been left behind. My first two nests were found on June 20th, and both were made in a bunch of dead grass left on the boughs by the floods when the river had overflowed at the breaking up of the ice. My other three nests were almost on the ground among the willows, and plentifully lined with brown and white feathers of the Willow-Grouse. These three nests had, in each of them, three eggs, which are white (pink before blown) with small dark brown spots at the larger end; but the first two nests had not yet eggs in them.

19. \*PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS.

Willow-Warblers also had arrived at Yeniseisk on May 15th, and soon became common, but did not subsequently appear to be quite so numerous as the following species. One specimen shot at Yeniseisk has been pronounced by Mr. Dresser to be *Ph. trochilus* var. *gaetkii*; it is smaller than the ordinary Willow-Warbler. Both *Ph. trochilus* and *Ph. borealis* were met with as far as lat. 69° 40' N.

20. \*PHYLLOSCOPUS BOREALIS.

This Warbler, though not observed at Yeniseisk, was first obtained in lat. 61° N., and afterwards seen and heard at many places. No nests were found, notwithstanding a careful search.

## \*PHYLLOSCOPUS FUSCATUS.

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk, Yeniseisk, and lat. 59° 10' N. ; also Seebohm at Yeniseisk.)

## HYPOLAIS CALIGATA.

(Dr. Theel, at Vórogova, lat. 61° N.)

## ARUNDINAX AËDON.

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk.)

## 21. ACROCEPHALUS DUMETORUM.

I shot a Blyth's Reed-Warbler on June 11th in about lat. 60° N.

## 22. ACROCEPHALUS SCHÆNOBÆNUS.

Sedge-Warblers were not noticed at Yeniseisk, but were fairly common in the northern portion of the forest-region that I visited.

## LOCUSTELLA CERTHIOLA.

(Dr. Theel, in lat. 62° N., and Seebohm at Yeniseisk.)

## 23. \*ACCENTOR MONTANELLUS.

A nest of the Mountain Accentor found at Yermakovo, lat. 66° N. (about), was lined with the fur of water-rats, which were running about in the grass at this place in great numbers. The species was not observed south of Toorukhansk.

## ACREDULA CAUDATA ?

(Dr. Theel, at Yeniseisk.)

## 24. PARUS MAJOR.

Great Tits were seen only at Yeniseisk (lat. 58° N.), where they had arrived before us, or possibly remained through the winter.

## 25. PARUS ATER.

Also seen only at Yeniseisk, where one of a large flock feeding among the pine-trees was shot, and some more were seen a few days later ; but otherwise the Coal-Titmouse was not so numerous as the following species.

## 26. \*PARUS BAICALENSIS.

Mr. Dresser has identified the two skins that I brought home from Yeniseisk as *P. baicalensis*. Near this town I watched a pair of Marsh-Tits building in a hole in a dead willow, but when I visited the place about ten days later I found the forest had been burnt and the birds driven away.

## 27. PARUS CINCTUS.

I did not shoot a Lapp Tit until I reached Yermakovo, on my way up the river.

## SITTA EUROPÆA.

(Seebohm, at the Koorayika river.)

## 28. \*MOTACILLA ALBA.

White Wagtails were common everywhere; their favourite nesting-places were the stacks of wood prepared by the villagers as fuel for the steamers.

## 29. \*MOTACILLA PERSONATA.

The Masked Wagtail is commoner than the preceding species at Yeniseisk, but this place seems to be the limit of its northern range in the Yenisei valley.

## 30. \*MOTACILLA CITREOLA. Yellow-headed Wagtail.

## 31. MOTACILLA MELANOPE.

My notes contain no mention of the Grey Wagtail beyond a single specimen shot at Yeniseisk on May 28th.

## MOTACILLA FLAVA.

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk and lat. 65° 35' N.; and Seebohm at Koorayika.)

## 32. MOTACILLA VIRIDIS.

At about lat. 68° N. I saw a pair of Grey-headed Wagtails and shot the male; I afterwards saw another (♀) on an island in lat. 72° 30' N. Mr. H. E. Dresser describes my bird thus:—"It belongs to the northern form of Wagtail which I have called *M. viridis*, and which Dr. Sharpe in the British Museum Catalogue calls *M. cinereicapilla* (vol. x.); but this specimen differs in having the entire throat and chin yellow,

and the indication of a stripe behind the eye also yellow ; it has in fact more yellow than any specimen I have seen."

33. \**ANTHUS GUSTAVI*.

My first example of the Siberian Pipit was obtained at Toorukhansk on June 19th, and my only nest in lat. 69° 40' N. on June 26th. This nest was in a rather swampy place among the dwarf willows, well hidden under a tussock of grass, the long grass falling over and completely concealing the four eggs, which are larger than those of *Anthus cervinus* and measure .98 in. by .65 in. The bird, when disturbed from its nest, fluttered along on the ground to lead me away from the eggs.

34. \**ANTHUS CERVINUS*. Red-throated Pipit.

35. *ANTHUS TRIVIALIS*.

Tree-Pipits were common at Yeniseisk.

36. *ANTHUS RICHARDI*.

On the open meadow-land adjoining the town of Yeniseisk, Richard's Pipits were scattered about in pairs on June 6th, and they probably nest there ; but I left Yeniseisk too early for their eggs. I had, however, several opportunities of watching the birds, which would take short flights into the air, hover for a little while, and then drop down into the grass, where, if I moved, they would stand erect on their long legs, with necks stretched up at full length, presenting a very odd appearance.

37. *ORIOLUS GALBULA*.

The Golden Oriole was observed at Yeniseisk in 1895, but not in 1897.

38. *LANIUS MAJOR*.

During my return journey by road from Yeniseisk to Krasnoyarsk I often saw Shrikes on the telegraph-wires, which I supposed were *L. major*.

39. *LANIUS PHENICURUS*.

I saw no Shrikes on my way down stream, but on August 8th I secured a bird of the year out of a family-

party of these Shrikes, and on the following day saw others, when in lat. 62° N. (about).

40. *AMPELIS GARRULUS.*

Waxwings were seen occasionally on my way down the river, and while watching for a Little Bunting to return to its nest a pair perched on a tree close by me.

41. *MUSCICAPA GRISOLA.*

A single example of the Spotted Flycatcher was shot at Yeniseisk on May 28th.

42. *MUSCICAPA LATIROSTRIS.*

One specimen was obtained at Yeniseisk on June 8th.

43. *MUSCICAPA PARVA.*

On May 22nd at Yeniseisk I shot a Red-breasted Flycatcher singing at the very top of a tall pine, and saw another at the mouth of the Lower Tungoska river.

44. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA.*

Swallows arrived at Yeniseisk on May 23rd, a week earlier than in 1895, and had all left again when I returned on August 14th.

45. \**CHELIDON LAGOPODA.*

Siberian House-Martins appeared at Yeniseisk two days later than the Swallows, but were still flying round the church-towers in swarms in the middle of August. I was again too early to get any eggs, but observed them further north than I had done two years before, the last pair that I saw on my way north being in lat. 69° 40' N.

46. \**COTILE RIPARIA.*

Sand-Martins arrived at Yeniseisk in great numbers on May 28th, a week later than in 1895.

47. *COCCOTHRAUSTES VULGARIS.*

On June 13th, at Inbatskaya (lat. 64° N.), I shot a Hawfinch, which was probably a straggler, since no one else has previously reported its occurrence in the valley of the Yenisei, so far as I am aware.

48. *PASSER DOMESTICUS.*

House-Sparrows were common at Yeniseisk, but not observed north of a village below Inbatskaya.

49. *PASSER MONTANUS.*

Tree-Sparrows were most numerous around Yeniseisk. Three were observed a little south of the Arctic circle on June 16th.

50. \**FRINGILLA MONTIFRINGILLA.*

Very shortly after my arrival at Yeniseisk I found the willows along the banks of the river full of Bramblings. They remained common up to lat. 68° N.

51. \**LINOTA LINARIA.*

Nearly all the Redpolls I obtained are intermediate between *L. linaria* and *L. exilipes*; most of them are, however, rather nearer to the latter. They arrived at Yeniseisk in the middle of May in very large flocks, out of which at one shot I obtained specimens approaching each species. Redpolls were among the earliest of the young birds found.

52. *URAGUS SIBIRICUS.*

I shot two examples, both males, of the Siberian Rose-Finch at Yeniseisk, the only place at which I saw them.

53. *CARPODACUS ERYTHRINUS.*

Three specimens of the Scarlet Grosbeak were obtained between Yeniseisk and the Arctic circle—two males and one female.

54. *PYRRHULA MAJOR.*

Bullfinches were seen at Yeniseisk and at Inbatskaya (lat. 64° N.).

55. *PINICOLA ENUCLEATOR.*

Apparently the Pine-Grosbeak is not so common as the Scarlet Grosbeak. A male was shot near Toorukhansk, and a female not far north of the Arctic circle.

*LOXIA BIFASCIATA.*

(Dr. Theel records the Two-barred Crossbill at Krasnoyarsk and Yeniseisk.)

56. *EMBERIZA CITRINELLA.*

Yellow Buntings were common at Yeniseisk by the middle of May and extended north to lat. 64°.

57. *EMBERIZA LEUCOCEPHALA.*

Mr. Kibort showed me skins at Krasnoyarsk of the Pine-Bunting and told me it was common there, but I failed to see it at Yeniseisk, although I kept a constant watch for it. Seeböhm obtained it at the Arctic circle, and Dr. Theel at Krasnoyarsk and at lat. 59° 10' N.

*EMBERIZA CIOIDES.*

(Dr. Theel mentions the Siberian Meadow-Bunting at Krasnoyarsk.)

*EMBERIZA SPODOCEPHALA.*

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk and lat. 61° 25' N.)

58. *EMBERIZA AUREOLA.*

Yellow-breasted Buntings were very numerous around Yeniseisk. They arrived nearly a fortnight later than the Yellow Buntings, and did not appear to be yet nesting when I left Yeniseisk on June 9th. The males were very tame, and sat singing their monotonous song everywhere; but it was not until some days later that I was able to procure a female.

*EMBERIZA RUSTICA.*

Seeböhm obtained a Rustie Bunting in lat. 62° N., but in spite of a careful search I failed to see any.

59. <sup>3</sup>*EMBERIZA PUSILLA.*

In 1895 I did not meet with Little Buntings until I reached Toorukhansk on my passage north, but in 1897 I shot one at Yeniseisk, and did not observe them again till I found them nesting near Toorukhansk. After this they were very common till I reached the Brekhoffski Islands, on one of which I found them busily feeding their young (July 25th). Seeböhm observed Little Buntings up to about the same latitude (71° N.), but not upon those islands.

I now possess, with those obtained in 1895, sixteen

clutches of these eggs, no two of which closely resemble each other. Three are of the type of the Reed-Bunting; one has some resemblance in markings and colour to an egg of *E. spodocephala*; another, Mr. Dresser states, has a resemblance to the green type of *E. rustica*, but is more brown in tinge; three are of the Reed-Bunting type but rufous in tinge, and one of these has very few of the scratchy markings so characteristic of *E. schœniclus*. The nests were always lined with fine dry grass, with the exception of one, which contained a few reindeer-hairs. The greatest number of eggs was six, and this number was found on three occasions.

The song of the Little Bunting is pleasanter than that of most Buntings.

60. \**EMBERIZA SCHœNICLUS*.

It was only at Yermakovo, just north of the Arctic circle, that I saw the Reed-Bunting, though I have no doubt it is common in other parts, as both Seebohm and Dr. Theel observed it elsewhere in the Yenisei valley.

The only nest found was built on the top of a willow-stump. I saw nothing of the smaller *E. polaris*, of which Seebohm obtained two specimens on the Arctic circle.

*EMBERIZA POLARIS*.

(Seebohm, at Koorayika.)

61. \**CALCARIUS LAPPONICUS*.

I found Lapland Buntings common and nesting as far north as we went (lat. 72° 50' N.) ; but did not observe them at Yeniseisk, as in 1895.

62. \**PLECTROPHENAX NIVALIS*.

Golchika was the first place at which I saw Snow-Buntings ; two nests were found under logs of drift-wood.

63. *ALAUDA ARVENSIS*.

There was only one place in which I saw Sky-Larks, and that was on the meadow-land near Yeniseisk, where I also saw the Richard's Pipits.

64. *OTOCORYS ALPESTRIS*.

Shore-Larks pass through Yeniseisk on migration in small

flocks. They did not occur again till we had reached nearly lat. 70° N.

65. \*STURNUS POLTARATSKII.

The Starlings which I shot at Yeniseisk, where they are common, have been identified as *S. poltaratskii* by Mr. Dresser. I did not observe them further north. They were nesting in the boxes set up for the purpose in most of the yards of the houses at Yeniseisk.

66. NUCIFRAGA CARYOCATACTES.

Nutcrackers were fairly numerous in the forest. Near Yermakovo I shot one of the large-billed variety, which was in full moult, on June 20th.

67. PERISOREUS INFAUSTUS.

Several flocks of Siberian Jays were seen in the forest on my way up stream, but I did not shoot a specimen.

68. \*PICA RUSTICA (subsp. LEUCOPTERA).

Magpies were common and nesting at Yeniseisk. They are the Eastern form, with much white on the wing, extending on the inner web of the primaries nearly to the extreme tip.

CORVUS MONEDULA.

Dr. Theel and Seebohm report Jackdaws at Krasnoyarsk, but I did not see any at Yeniseisk (200 miles further north), though there are plenty of Jackdaws with very white collars to be seen at a short distance west of Krasnoyarsk.

69. \*CORVUS CORONE.

Carrion-Crows are the commonest of the Corvidæ at Yeniseisk, nesting in the forest adjoining the town. I did not notice them further north than the mouth of the Middle Tungooska river (lat. 62° N.), though Seebohm saw them up to the limit of forest-growth.

70. CORVUS CORNIX.

I saw no Grey Crows at Yeniseisk in 1897. They had probably disappeared into the forest to nest, my arrival having been considerably later than in 1895.

71. *CORVUS CORAX*.

Ravens were occasionally seen in the forest.

72. *CYPSELUS APUS* ?

A pair of Swifts flew over me near Yeniseisk, which may have belonged to this or the following species. Dr. Theel reports *C. apus* at Krasnoyarsk and in lat.  $65^{\circ} 35'$  N.

73. *ACANTHYLLIS CAUDACUTA*. Needle-tailed Swift.

Mr. Kibort showed me a skin obtained in Krasnoyarsk.

74. *CAPRIMULGUS EUROPEUS*. Nightjar.

Not seen in 1897.

*PICUS MARTIUS*.

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk and lat.  $59^{\circ} 10'$  N.)

75. *DENDROCOPUS MAJOR*. Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Common around Yeniseisk.

76. *DENDROCOPUS PIPRA*.

The Siberian Lesser Spotted Woodpecker did not appear to be so numerous as the preceding species.

77. *PICOIDES TRIDACTYLUS*.

It was not until my return journey that I was able to add the Three-toed Woodpecker to my 1897 list.

*GECCINUS CANUS* ?

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk.)

78. *IYNX TORQUILLA*.

Wrynecks were first heard on May 20th, but only at Yeniseisk.

*UPUPA EPOPS*.

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk.)

79. *CUCULUS CANORUS*.

The Cuckoo announced its arrival at Yeniseisk on May 22nd and soon became common. It was last seen at the Monastery (lat.  $66^{\circ}$  N.), where I shot a bird in the act of uttering the "hoo, hoo" sound attributed by Seebohm to the Himalayan Cuckoo; it proved, however, to be

*C. canorus*, which is the only species I have obtained on the Yenisei.

80. \*ASIO OTUS. Long-eared Owl.

81. \*ASIO ACCIPITRINUS. Short-eared Owl.

82. SYRNIUM URALENSE.

Mr. Kitmanoff, the curator of the museum at Yeniseisk, showed me a skin of the Ural Owl that had been recently killed at the gold-mines near Yeniseisk, and also from the same locality two skins (♂ & ♀) of the following species.

83. SYRNIUM LAPONICUM. Lapp Owl.

SURNIA ULULA. Hawk-Owl.

(Dr. Theel.)

84. NYCTEA SCANDIACA.

There were many Snowy Owls sitting on the hummocks on the islands in the estuary, but as we could not find a nest I concluded they were not breeding this year, owing to the scarcity of lemmings; for where these had been running about in all directions two years before, there was not one to be seen in 1897. I secured an almost entirely white Snowy Owl, which had eaten off the head of a Brent Goose that I had left by its eggs, as a mark to find them on my return.

BUBO IGNAVUS.

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk.)

85. CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS. Marsh-Harrier.

CIRCUS CYANEUS?

(Dr. Theel, in lat. 61° N.)

86. \*BUTEO DESERTORUM.

On my return from Yeniseisk to Krasnoyarsk I frequently saw Rufous Buzzards by the roadside, sometimes perched upon the telegraph-poles.

87. \*ARCHIBUTEO LAGOPUS.

On landing in lat. 69° 40' N. we were not greeted by the cry of Rough-legged Buzzards this year, as we were in 1895. It seems that the places of those we shot two years before had not been filled by others; and the same thing applies to the

Red-breasted Geese and Peregrines, for we went some distance along the slope of the cliffs without seeing any of these birds. I found only one Rough-legged Buzzard's nest on this expedition.

88. *HALIAËTUS ALBICILLA.*

While steaming up the river in the s.s. 'Yenisei' I often saw a White-tailed Eagle flying along the river-bank in the forest-district, and one flew across the tundra to an island in lat. 69° 40' N.

*ASTUR PALUMBARIUS.*

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk.)

89. *ACCIPITER NISUS.*

The only Sparrow-Hawk I saw was one which I shot on a fence in a village in lat. 66° N.

90. *MILVUS MIGRANS?*

A Black Kite flew over our steamer when nearing Yeniseisk on my return.

91. *FALCO URALENSIS?*

On three occasions a large grey bird of prey flew past me while I was either busy packing away a specimen or getting into a boat, so that I was never able to get a shot at it. Mr. Dresser tells me it probably was the pale Ural form of *Falco gyrfalco*.

While steaming down the river a large grey bird crossed ahead of us, going through the most extraordinary performance; it would rise quickly into the air, turn completely over back downward, descend headlong for some yards, and then rise up again flapping its wings continuously; and this went on till the opposite shore was reached, quite two miles away.

92. \**FALCO PEREGRINUS.* Peregrine.

93. *FALCO SUBBUTEO.*

Hobbies were seen only at Yeniseisk.

94. *FALCO ÆSALON.*

Only a single Merlin was seen on one of the Brekhoffski Islands.

95. \*FALCO VESPERTINUS.

Five nests were found belonging to the Red-legged Falcon at Yeniseisk, where the birds are common, but this place appears to be near the northern limit of their range. Their ordinary cry is a long "cheet, cheet," but their alarm-cry when their nest is approached becomes a short and quickly-repeated "chi, chi, chi, chi."

96. \*FALCO TINNUNCULUS.

Kestrels were fairly numerous and nesting at Yeniseisk, but scarcer than the preceding species.

PANDION HALIAËTUS.

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk and lat. 61° N.)

97. BOTAURUS STELLARIS. Bittern.

CICONIA NIGRA.

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk and Yeniseisk.)

98. \*ANSER SEGETUM.

The Bean-Goose is the most numerous of the Geese on the Yenisei up to about lat. 72° N., beyond which it is replaced by the following species.

99. \*ANSER ALBIFRONS.

The White-fronted Goose nests in considerable numbers on the islands at the mouth of the river; both parent birds are usually found at the nest.

100. \*BERNICLA BRENTA.

The Brent Goose also nests on the islands north of Golchika; these being generally inhabited by either the Brent or the White-fronted Geese, but seldom by both species. The Brent, which is here the form with dark underparts, lines its nest, containing from three to five eggs, with far more down than the other Geese place in theirs. The sitting bird often remained on its nest with its neck stretched out along the ground until I was within a few yards of it.

101. \*BERNICLA RUFICOLLIS.

The Red-breasted Goose appears to be exceedingly local on the Yenisei, and in 1895 we had evidently "killed the

Geese which laid the golden eggs," for I found no nests in 1897 in the place where we had found four nests on our previous visit.

CYGNUS MUSICUS?

(Dr. Theel records it at Krasnoyarsk and Yegarka, lat. 67° 25' N.)

102. \*CYGNUS BEWICKI.

Eggs and young in down of the Bewick's Swan were taken on the Brekhoffski Islands. This was the only Swan I was able to identify on the Yenisei.

103. ANAS BOSCAS.

A few Mallards were seen at Yeniseisk.

104. SPATULA CLYPEATA.

A single Shoveler flew past me at Yeniseisk.

105. \*QUERQUEDULA CRECCA.

Teal were numerous up to lat. 70° 30' N.

106. QUERQUEDULA CIRCA.

I did not observe the Garganey in 1897, as I did in 1895.

107. QUERQUEDULA FORMOSA.

Near Yeniseisk a male Baikal Teal was shot at daybreak, and a few others seen in the same district, where this handsome Duck was well known to a local flight-shooter, who said it nested there. The call-note resembles the word "clock, clock."

108. \*DAFILA ACUTA.

Pintails extended from Yeniseisk up to lat. 72° N.

109. \*MARECA PENELOPE. Wigeon.

110. \*FULIGULA MARILA.

Scaups nest up to lat. 70° 45' N.

111. FULIGULA CRISTATA.

I saw only one Tufted Duck at Yermakovo, a short distance north of the Arctic circle.

112. \*CLANGULA GLAUCION.

Goldeneyes are very common at Yeniseisk and are frequently shot, with the help of wooden decoys, by the local flightshooters.

113. \*HARELDA GLACIALIS. Long-tailed Duck.

114. SOMATERIA MOLLISSIMA.

I only once saw Eider Ducks flying down the Golchika river in a small flock.

115. SOMATERIA SPECTABILIS.

King-Eiders were noticed in 1895 only.

116. CÆDEMIA FUSCA. Velvet Scoter.

117. \*CÆDEMIA NIGRA. Scoter.

118. MERGUS SERRATOR.

A pair of Mergansers were seen at a lake where a pair were seen two years before.

119. MERGUS MERGANSER.

Goosanders were occasionally seen, but no specimen was obtained.

120. MERGUS ALBELLUS.

My man brought me a Smew at Toorukhansk that he had shot, and I afterwards saw three males on a lake somewhat lower down the river, but we did not find any eggs.

COLUMBA CENAS ?

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk.)

COLUMBA PALUMBUS.

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk.)

COLUMBA GELASTES.

(Dr. Theel, in lat. 59° 10' N.)

PERDIX CINEREA ?

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk.)

COTURNIX COMMUNIS.

(Dr. Theel, in lat. 61° N.)

## 121. LAGOPUS RUPESTRIS.

Not obtained on this expedition, but in 1895 specimens in winter plumage were shot at Golchika.

## 122. \*LAGOPUS ALBUS. Willow-Grouse.

All the white-winged Grouse I shot in 1897 belonged to this species. Two nests contained eleven eggs in each.

## 123. \*BONASA BETULINA.

Hazel-Grouse were common in the forest. I shot a few by calling them within range with a whistle. They are the grey form of the Hazel-Grouse.

## 124. TETRAO TETRIX. Black Grouse.

## TETRAO UROGALLUS.

(Seebohm, at the Koorayika river.)

## 125. CREX PRATENSIS.

I stalked a Land-rail at Yatsova (lat. 60° 10' N.), succeeded in getting to within a yard of it in the dusk, and watched it for some time making the well-known noise.

## FULICA ATRA.

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk.)

## 126. GRUS COMMUNIS.

Cranes were migrating northward over Yeniseisk on May 16th, and I saw ten feeding on a meadow close to a village a few hundred versts lower down the river.

## 127. \*CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS. Golden Plover.

## 128. \*CHARADRIUS FULVUS.

One nest with eggs of the Eastern Golden Plover was found near Golchika, and another with two eggs and two young in down. I succeeded in hatching out the two eggs, and thus have four young in down, which agree very closely with the young in down of *Ch. pluvialis*, but as a rule have the sides of the head and cheeks less marked with black than in that species: the upper parts are quite as yellow as in the most richly-coloured specimens of *Ch. pluvialis*, and the yellowish-white band across the hind-neck is rather larger and more clearly defined in the Asiatic bird.

129. \**SQUATAROLA HELVETICA*.

The Grey Plovers which nest near Golchika evidently reach their nesting-grounds by migrating down the river, for I saw about ten Grey Plovers at Vórogova (lat. 61° N.) on June 11th. Although we found four nests two years previously, I did not find any in 1897, and certainly saw far fewer birds on the marshes near Golchika, where they were breeding in 1895. I noticed none further north.

130. \**ÆGIALITIS CURONICA*.

I first observed Lesser Ringed Plovers on June 7th at Yeniseisk with a few Little Stints, and shot one of them. A few more were seen at the first village at which we stopped after leaving Yeniseisk.

131. *ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA*. Ringed Plover.132. \**EUDROMIAS MORINELLUS*.

I shot a solitary Dotterel at Yeniseisk on June 7th, but did not meet with any more till I reached lat. 69°40' N.

133. *VANELLUS GREGARIUS*.

At Vórogova on June 11th, in lat. 61° N., I shot a Sociable Plover, which was in the company of about ten Grey Plovers, and was no doubt a straggler.

*VANELLUS CRISTATUS*.

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk.)

134. *STREPSILAS INTERPRES*.

I was disappointed in not being able to find a Turnstone's nest on the islands below Golchika, where several of these birds were seen.

135. *HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS*.

Oyster-catchers were observed on the Yenisei only in 1895.

136. \**PHALAROPUS HYPERBOREUS*.

Red-necked Phalaropes extended as far north as we were able to go (lat. 72° 50' N.). Several nests were found.

137. \**PHALAROPUS FULICARIUS*.

I had hoped to find another nest of Grey Phalarope's eggs,

but was doomed to disappointment. I did not see any birds till I was north of Golchika, and then they were scarce.

138. \*GALLINAGO MAJOR.

The Double Snipe first appeared at Yeniseisk on May 19th. Its range extends to the most northern islands of the Brekhoffski group (lat. 71° N.).

139. \*GALLINAGO CÆLESTIS.

The Common Snipe was first procured at Yeniseisk on the same date as the Double Snipe; it is rarer than either *G. major* or *G. stenura*. No nests were found by us in either year that I was on the Yenisei, but Seebohm obtained one nest in lat. 67° N.

140. \*GALLINAGO STENURA.

On May 28th, at Yeniseisk, I found the first Snipe's nest with three eggs, and returning on the following day I flushed the bird from the nest; she only flew a few yards and alighted on the ground, where I promptly shot her, and was pleased to find that it was a Pin-tailed Snipe (♀), and that the fourth egg had been laid. Seebohm was therefore mistaken in his supposition that this Snipe does not breed south of the Arctic circle. I afterwards found three more nests: one at the monastery (lat. 65° 40' N.) and the other two on the tundra. Two of these nests contained four eggs, and the other two eggs. They differ considerably from eggs of the Common Snipe in being larger, having the ground-colour as in eggs of the Double Snipe, and being much more richly marked. The markings are in almost all cases very profuse at the larger end, and in some confluent. The eggs measure 1.59 in. by 1.24 in., 1.61 in. by 1.12 in., 1.66 in. by 1.2 in., and 1.74 in. by 1.18 in.

I never heard the Pin-tailed Snipe utter any call when rising from its nest, but its "drumming" sounds like bubbling water, while it is continued much longer and is far louder than the drumming of the Common Snipe. The bird works its way to a considerable height and then descends rapidly, "drumming" as it goes; if close overhead the noise is terrific. It is a far easier bird to shoot than our Common

Snipe, the flight being heavier and more like that of the Double Snipe.

GALLINAGO GALLINULA.

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk.)

SCOLOPAX RUSTICULA.

(Dr. Theel, at Krasnoyarsk and Yeniseisk.)

141. \*TRINGA ALPINA.

Dunlins pass on their northern migration through Yeniseisk, where I first saw them, on May 28th, with some Ringed Plovers. I afterwards took eggs at Golchika.

142. \*TRINGA MINUTA.

I found Little Stints extremely abundant at Golchika and on the islands and tundra north of that place. I found eighteen nests, one of which contained seven eggs, but three of these differed very much from the other four, and were probably laid by some other bird. Three females and two males were shot from their eggs.

143. \*TRINGA TEMMINCKI. Temminck's Stint.

144. \*TRINGA SUBARQUATA.

In August 1895 I found Curlew-Sandpipers in small family-parties on the islands in the delta of the Yenisei, and shot birds of the year, which I considered had probably been hatched not very far off. It was principally the chance of being able to reach their nesting-grounds that induced me to risk being too early for many of the birds to be found nesting in the forest-region, by hurrying on down the river as fast as the rapidly retreating ice would allow. Much interest is attached to this bird, owing to its nesting-grounds having been a secret for so long, and I therefore give the notes on my success in full.

July 3rd found us under way early, and proceeding downstream from Golchika until we were prevented from going on by ice almost completely blocking further progress; we therefore turned back and anchored close to one of the islands, which was composed of soft tundra-land with a rocky shore; I hurried ashore, accompanied by McGarry and

Hansen (the mate of our steamer). The first birds seen on landing were Little Stints, Snow-Buntings and Lapland Buntings, and several Richardson's Skuas were flying about over the centre of the island. Brent Geese also were plentiful, and I soon found a nest with four eggs. While walking across the island, McGarry called out to me that there was a Sandpiper in sight; I hurried up to him and was delighted to see a Curlew-Sandpiper. I sent the other two men away and lay down to watch the bird, which stood still for some time, then flew some distance away, and I lost sight of it among some Turnstones. After joining the other men, I followed a little flock of four Curlew-Sandpipers that flew past, and shot a couple of females at one shot as they were washing themselves at the edge of a small lake.

We walked on in pursuit of a Snowy Owl, which proved as wild as usual, and then returned to the Curlew-Sandpiper ground. We again saw the bird near the same spot, so Hansen and I lay down to watch it, while the mosquitoes did their worst. The bird stood for some time watching us and then began running about; it was very difficult to keep it in sight, for it took advantage of every little hollow to run in and every little ridge to hide behind. It then flew to another place and did the same thing again, so I asked Hansen to get up and walk away. The bird remained quite motionless, watching him go, and then ran backwards and forwards, and finally stopped still behind a small tuft of grass. After waiting for some minutes, I raised my head slightly; the bird instantly flew off and stood watching, but as it saw nothing moving it began running about again and settled down in the same spot; then I felt sure I had a nest safe, but to make doubly sure I went through the same performance again, a shower of rain no doubt hastening matters, and this time I distinctly saw the bird shuffle the eggs under it. I jumped up, shot the bird as it ran away, and soon had the pleasure of looking at the first authentic eggs of the Curlew-Sandpiper.

The bird, which proved to be the female, remained silent throughout; at one time I thought I heard it make a sound

like a Dunlin, but as I afterwards saw Dunlins close by, I was probably mistaken.

The nest was a rather deep hollow amongst the reindeer-moss in an open space on a ridge of ground somewhat drier than the surrounding swampy tundra, in much the same sort of place as that generally chosen by a Grey Plover.

The four eggs, which were slightly incubated, resemble those of the Common Snipe, except in size, and also some eggs of the Purple Sandpiper. They measure from 1.4 in. to 1.47 in. in length, by from 1 in. to 1.02 in. in breadth. As we were unable to find another nest, although we devoted several days to the search, I imagine we were on the extreme western fringe of the breeding-grounds of this species.

The eggs have been figured in the Proc. Zool. Soc. 1897, p. 890, pl. li. figs. 1-4.

145. \*MACHETES PUGNAX.

I met with Ruffs at Yeniseisk and as far north as I went.

146. CALIDRIS ARENARIA.

I had hoped that if able to get eggs of the Curlew-Sandpiper, I might find those of the Sanderling also, because I had shot young birds of the year in 1895 at Kuzkin Island; but apparently this species nests even further north than *Tringa subarquata*. I did not obtain a single example on this visit.

147. TOTANUS HYPOLEUCUS.

Common Sandpipers were plentiful at Yeniseisk, and were almost daily seen along the shore of the river up to the Arctic circle.

148. \*TOTANUS OCHROPUS.

Green Sandpipers were common at Yeniseisk.

149. \*TOTANUS GLAREOLA.

There were no Wood-Sandpipers to be found nesting near Toorukhansk, where I had taken their eggs from old Fieldfares' nests two years before. A Sandpiper's egg and a Fieldfare's egg were found in the same nest, but I had no opportunity of seeing if the bird was a Wood-Sandpiper or a Green Sandpiper.

150. *TOTANUS FUSCUS.*

A single example of the Spotted Redshank was shot on Aug. 9th. The legs of this bird are alternately red and black, having two broad bands of black above and below the knees, leaving the knees and feet red.

151. *TOTANUS CANESCENS.*

I saw a few Greenshanks at Yeniseisk, and one at the edge of the same pool where I shot one on my previous visit.

152. \**TEREKIA CINEREA.*

Terek Sandpipers appeared on June 5th at Yeniseisk; we had not seen these Sandpipers so far south in 1895.

153. \**LIMOSA LAPPONICA.*

Although we obtained two clutches of eggs of the Bar-tailed Godwit in 1895, we did not find any nest in 1897, possibly because we had not the time to devote to such a long search as is required to find a nest of this bird.

154. *NUMENIUS ARQUATA?*155. \**STERNA MACRURA.*

Arctic Terns were common and nesting at Golehika and on the islands in the estuary.

156. *STERNA LONGIPENNIS.*

At Yeniseisk I shot one of these Terns on May 25th, having the bill black with a little red at the base, and the legs dull red; and at Toorukhansk on June 17th I shot one of a pair having a black bill and dark red legs.

157. \**LARUS CANUS.*

All the Common Gulls that I shot on the Yenisei on both journeys had the bill plain yellow, without the greenish base. They had arrived at Yeniseisk before us, and as long as we remained there were almost daily seen flying slowly northwards in small flocks. In the forest-region they are common, but do not appear to extend north of the growth of trees.

*LARUS ARGENTATUS?*

(Dr. Theel.)

## 158. \*LARUS AFFINIS.

I have nothing to add to my notes of 1895 concerning this Gull.

## 159. LARUS FUSCUS.

No further example of the Lesser Black-backed Gull was obtained in 1897.

## 160. LARUS MARINUS?

No Gulls resembling *L. marinus* were observed in 1897.

## 161. \*LARUS GLAUCUS.

The Glaucous Gull does not occur south of Golehika. Eggs were taken from a nest on a ledge of rock on one of the islands in the mouth of the river. There was only this one pair of Glaucous Gulls amongst a large colony of *L. affinis* nesting on the island.

## 162. \*STERCORARIUS POMATORHINUS.

I stopped on my way north on June 27th at the island where we found Pomatorhine Skuas nesting in 1895, on purpose to look for them again, but there were no Skuas there; nor were any to be seen when I revisited the island on July 25th on my return journey. A single bird at Doodinka was the sole representative of the species seen.

## 163. \*STERCORARIUS CREPIDATUS.

Richardson's Skuas appeared to be the only Skuas nesting in 1897 on the Yenisei, and of these but two nests were found.

## 164. \*STERCORARIUS PARASITICUS.

Although we frequently found the nests of Buffon's Skuas on my previous journey, we saw nothing of them on this occasion, excepting at Golehika, when a flock of twenty-two passed over on June 29th. I am convinced they were not breeding this year, owing to the almost complete absence of lemmings; and this may also account for the absence of *S. pomatorhinus*.

## 165. COLYMBUS ADAMSI.

A Siberian merchant, living at Karaool, gave me a skin

of the White-billed Northern Diver obtained from the Boganida district. He told me that the bird is well-known far away on the tundra to the east, but is very rare on the Yenisei.

166. \* *COLYMBUS ARCTICUS*. Black-throated Diver.

167. \* *COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS*.

My experience differs from Seeböhm's, in that I found the Red-throated Diver much commoner than the Black-throated Diver. The former is exceedingly numerous at Golchika.

XLIV.—*On the Psophia obscura of Natterer and Pelzeln.*

By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.

(Plate XI.)

IN the account of the Trumpeters (*Psophiidæ*) in the British Museum Catalogue (vol. xxiii. p. 231), *Psophia obscura* of Natterer and Pelzeln has been united to *P. viridis* Spix. Knowing full well the almost unfailing accuracy of Natterer and his scrupulousness in naming new species without good reason, I was always of opinion that some mistake had been made here; but, no specimens of either of these species being in the British Museum or in any other collection in England, I have until quite recently been unable to set it right. I have now the opportunity of doing so, through the kind assistance of my excellent correspondent Dr. Goeldi, Director of the Museum of Pará. During a recent excursion to the Upper Rio Capim, in the Province of Pará, Dr. Goeldi obtained, near the waterfall of Acary Ussána, two living examples of a Trumpeter and two dead specimens, and has kindly forwarded to me one of the latter, from which the accompanying figure (Plate XI.) has been prepared. There can be little doubt, I think, both from the locality and from the original description, that these birds (which Dr. Goeldi informs me were all four alike) are referable to *Psophia obscura*, and that they are distinct from *P. viridis* Spix, as I will proceed to show.